

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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-----025680 171400Z /47

O 171340Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, OCON

SUBJECT: TRADE GROUP LED BY LT. GOV. GREEN OF NORTH
CAROLINA

REF: A) STATE 66949; B) RIYADH 197

1. ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIP BY LT. GOV. GREEN AND OTHER
MEMBERS OF GROUP UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF ARAB AMERICAN
COUNCIL ON CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC EXCHANGE (SEE PROPOSED
ITINERARY REF A) STILL REMAIN VERY TENTATIVE AT TIME OF
DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON. DEPTOFF HAS URGED SPONSORS TO
BE CERTAIN THAT ADVANCE MAN SPINS OFF FROM CAIRO PROGRAM
TO TRY TO PUT PROGRAM TOGETHER IN KHARTOUM AND ABU DHABI.
POSSIBILITIES ARE THAT EGYPTIAN COUNCIL MEMBER HAMD
SALEH OR WALTER H. EVANS III MIGHT BE SPUN OFF FOR SUCH
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PURPOSE BUT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS WITHIN SPONSORING
GROUP HAS YET TO GEL.

2. EXTENSIVE BRIEFING WAS PROVIDED FOR LT. GOV. GREEN BY
AMBASSADOR TWINAM WHEN HE ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON THIS AM.
UNTIL HIS ARRIVAL HERE, LT. GOV. HAD NOT FOCUSED ON DETAILS
OF ARRANGEMENTS BEING PROPOSED BY COUNCIL AND HAD ASSUMED

THAT ALL ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN CONFIRMED. GROUP MEMBERS
APPEAR TO HAVE VISAS FOR EGYPT, SUDAN AND UAE THOUGH LT.
GOV. WILL NEED TO OBTAIN SAUDI VISA DURING STAY IN CAIRO.

3. WALTER EVANS HAS ASKED THAT EMBASSY KHARTOUM TENTATIVELY SCHEDULE BRIEFING FOR GROUP BY APPROPRIATE EMBASSY/AID OFFICERS ON FRIDAY MORNING (MARCH 24) IF POSSIBLE. EVANS ALSO ASKS EMBASSY ABU DHABI TO ARRANGE SUITABLE BRIEFING ON MONDAY MORNING (MARCH 27). EVANS WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE EMBASSY/AID BRIEFING ON -AIRO SCHEDULE BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHAT ARRANGEMENTS SALEH IS MAKING. EVANS PLANS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY COMMERCIAL SECTION SOON AFTER ARRIVAL IN CAIRO.

4. WE HAVE TOLD LT. GOV. GREEN AND EVANS THAT OUR EMBASSIES WOULD PROVIDE WHAT ASSISTANCE THEY COULD WITH RESOURCES AVAILABLE. AT SAME TIME, WE MADE CLEAR THAT SUCH HELP COULD NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR GROUP'S OWN EFFORTS TO WORK OUT LOGISTICAL AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITS TO EGYPT, SUDAN AND UAE.

5. RE LT. GOV. GREEN'S PLANS FOR RIYADH VISIT, HE INTENDS CALLS ON SAUDI OFFICIALS TO BE IN NATURE OF COURTESY VISITS. HIS OBJECTIVE IS TO GET BEST POSSIBLE IMPRESSION OF AREAS IN WHICH NORTH CAROLINA FIRMS CAN MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO SAUDI DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TO ACT AS CATALYST
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TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO SEEK OUT SUCH OPPORTUNITIES. HE HAS NO SPECIFIC ELEMENTS TO IDENTIFY THOUGH AS R-FTEL B SUPPOSES HE IS INTERESTED IN HIGHER EDUCATION. WE HAVE TOLD LT. GOV. THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR EMBASSY TO GET WORD TO HIM IN ABU DHABI IF NOT SOONER ON POSSIBILITIES FOR SCHEDULING CALLS IN RIYADH.

6. THIS IS FIRST TRADE MISSION EFFORT ON PART OF COUNCIL WHICH IS BILLED AS NON-PROFIT GROUP FORMED TO FURTHER US-ARAB RELATIONS (ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL). VANCE

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